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INTERIM REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON RWANDA

INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of paragraph 3 of resolution 812 (1993), by which the Security Council invited me to examine the request by the Governments of Rwanda and Uganda for the deployment of observers at the border between these two countries.

2. It will be recalled that, in separate letters addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Governments of Rwanda (S/25355) and Uganda (S/25356) had called for the deployment of United Nations military observers along their common border.

3. Following the adoption of resolution 812 (1993), I decided to send a technical mission to Uganda and Rwanda with a view to gathering the relevant information. The mission visited Uganda from 2 to 5 April and Rwanda on 6 April 1993. The mission was led by my Military Adviser, Brigadier-General Maurice Baril.

4. During its visit to Uganda, the mission was joined by Mr. Macaire Pedanou, leader of the United Nations good-will mission which visited the region from 2 to 17 March 1993. Since then, Mr. Pedanou has been observing, on my behalf, the talks which have been taking place in Arusha (United Republic of Tanzania) between the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF). I shall submit a detailed report to the Security Council on my good-will mission after the conclusion of the Arusha peace talks.

I. THE ARUSHA PEACE TALKS

5. The talks resumed in Arusha on 16 March 1993 under the auspices of the United Republic of Tanzania, which is acting as the facilitator. The agenda for the current round of negotiations covers military issues, refugees and displaced persons, and outstanding political matters, including the amendment of the constitution, as well as the duration of the transitional period. On the military side, the negotiations focus on the composition and size of the new army, including the representation of the armed forces of the Government and those of the RPF in the new army. Other issues being addressed in the talks cover arrangements related to security services, including the gendarmerie,

demobilization and the assistance required from the international community. The two parties are also discussing the establishment of an International Neutral Force for the implementation of the proposed peace agreement.

6. I wish to inform the members of the Security Council that, on 18 May 1993, I met with the Minister of Defense of Rwanda, Dr. James Gasana, who delivered to me a message from H.E. Mr. Juvenal Habyarimana, President of Rwanda. In that message, President Habyarimana reiterated his Government's hope that the United Nations would deploy a group of military observers along the Rwanda/Uganda border. He also expressed the view that the early deployment of a United Nations-supervised International Neutral Force, in the zone separating the Rwandese armed forces from those of the RPF, would facilitate the current negotiations in Arusha and contribute to peace and national reconciliation in Rwanda.

II. REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL MISSION

7. The terms of reference of the technical mission led by General Baril were to gather and evaluate all information relevant to the possible deployment of United Nations military observers on the Rwanda/Uganda border. The mission was instructed to make recommendations, as appropriate, regarding the tasks which could be performed by such observers and to prepare a concept of operations, as well as an estimate of the logistic and administrative support requirements. In addition, the mission was asked to suggest a time-frame for the deployment of military observers, following authorization of such an operation by the Security Council.

8. During its visit to Uganda, the technical mission met with Dr. Paul Szemogere, Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as with Mr. Anama Msazi, Minister of Defence, and Major-General Mugisha-Munti, Commander of the Armed Forces. With the cooperation of the Ugandan authorities, the mission was able to carry out aerial and ground reconnaissance of the Uganda side of the border with Rwanda.

9. The technical team then travelled to Kigali where it was received by the President of Rwanda, H.E. Mr. Juvenal Habyarimana, the Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Dismas Nsengiyareme, and the Minister of Defence, Mr. James Gasana. Meetings were also arranged with members of the diplomatic community, as well as with the deputy commander of the Neutral Military Observer Group (NMOG) of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). In addition, the mission met with representatives of the RPF attached to the NMOG.

10. On the basis of these discussions and of a preliminary assessment of conditions on the ground, the mission has reported that it would be possible to deploy United Nations military observers to monitor the Uganda/Rwanda border and verify that no military assistance is being provided across the border between the two countries. The border extends approximately 150 kilometres by line of sight. The RPF controls about four fifths of the border and is opposed to the deployment of observers on the Rwanda side. The military observers would therefore be deployed on the Uganda side of the border, opposite the portion which is at present under the control of the RPF forces.

11. In this regard, it should be noted that, as is the case in other regions of Africa, the same ethnic groups live on both sides of the border and that movement of people across the border, as well as cross-border trade, have traditionally been frequent. Consequently, any monitoring and verification activities would not seek to restrict such movements, but would focus primarily on transit or transport of lethal weapons and ammunition across the border, as well as of any other material which could be of military use.

III. UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION

12. The tasks described above could be carried out by an observer mission to be known as the "United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda" (UNOMUR). This observer mission would be under the command of the United Nations, vested in the Secretary-General under the authority of the Security Council. UNOMUR would be headed in the field by a Chief Military Observer (CMO) designated by the Secretary-General with the consent of the Security Council. The CMO would report to the Secretary-General. For his part, the Secretary-General would report regularly to the Security Council on the operations of UNOMUR. All matters that might affect the nature or the continued effective functioning of the observer mission would be referred to the Security Council for its decision.

13. As regards the concept of operations, UNOMUR would establish its headquarters in Kabale, a city centrally located close to the border area. It would have two sector headquarters. In order to perform its monitoring functions effectively, UNOMUR would need a combination of static observation posts and mobile patrols. It is envisaged that five static observation posts would be established at the five main road crossing sites on the border and that these would be supported by extensive vehicle and foot patrols on the Uganda side of the border, by day and at night. Helicopter patrols using sensory devices would also be required, since ground fog is prevalent in the border area and because of the presence of dense vegetation and the difficulty of the terrain.

14. It is estimated that, in order to carry out its monitoring and verification activities, UNOMUR would require 81 military observers, 17 international and seven local civilian support staff. The military observers would be provided by Member States at the request of the Secretary-General. The contributing countries would be selected after the usual consultations and with the concurrence of the Security Council, bearing in mind the accepted principle of equitable geographical representation.

15. In accordance with established practice, UNOMUR would need to have freedom of movement, communication and inspection, and to enjoy the other rights that would be necessary for the performance of its tasks. UNOMUR and its personnel would also have to be granted all relevant privileges and immunities provided for by the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. In this connection, I am gratified that the Government of Uganda has assured the technical mission that it would provide the necessary facilities and that it would ensure the safety of United Nations personnel deployed in the border area, when requested. Should the Security Council decide to establish UNOMUR, it would therefore be my intention to initiate consultations with the Government of

Uganda, with a view to concluding a Status of Mission Agreement along the usual lines.

16. It will be recalled that, on 8 April 1993, I informed the Security Council that I had decided to strengthen my good-will mission by the addition of three military advisers (S/25561). On 13 April, the Security Council welcomed this decision (S/25592). One of them has joined the good-will mission in Arusha with a view to providing technical advice, as appropriate, on the military aspects of the ongoing negotiations. The two other military advisers arrived in Kampala (Uganda) on 15 April 1993 to undertake the more detailed reconnaissance work required prior to the deployment of an eventual observer mission in the border area.

17. Subject to the approval of the Security Council, I envisage that UNOMUR would be deployed progressively. An advance party of 21 military observers and some civilian support staff would be deployed within 15 days of the adoption of a Security Council resolution. The rest of the personnel would be deployed as soon as the necessary logistic support had been procured and delivered to the mission area. It is estimated that the full deployment of the mission could be completed within 45 days.

18. I shall, as soon as possible, submit as an addendum to the present report a statement of the financial and administrative implications of the operation described above.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

19. The Governments of Rwanda and Uganda have requested the deployment of United Nations military observers at their common border. The two Governments confirmed this request to the technical mission during the latter's visit to Kampala and Kigali. Moreover, in a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council on 11 May 1993, the Permanent Representative of Uganda reaffirmed that his Government was prepared to accept the stationing of a United Nations observer contingent on the Uganda side of the border. The position of the Government of Rwanda has also been reconfirmed in the letter of its President referred to in paragraph 6 above.

20. As indicated in paragraph 8 of the present report, the RPF is opposed to the deployment of observers on the Rwanda side of the border, but it does not object to the presence of United Nations military observers on the Uganda side of the border, as long as the purpose of this presence is to verify that no military assistance reaches its forces through Uganda. In addition, the RPF has expressed the view that similar monitoring activities regarding the provision of military assistance to the Government of Rwanda should also be considered.

21. On the basis of the conclusions of the technical mission, which are summarized in sections II and III of the present report, the Security Council may which to authorize the establishment of a United Nations observer mission on the Uganda side of the Rwanda/Uganda border, for an initial period of up to six months. The duration of this observer mission would however be subject to review, following the conclusion of the Arusha talks. At that time, I shall also report to the Security Council on the outcome of the consultations which

have been undertaken with the OAU in pursuance of paragraph 2 of resolution 812 (1993).

22. However, I wish to inform the members of the Council that, in order to support the current peace-keeping efforts of the OAU in Rwanda, I have decided to put two military experts at the disposal of that Organization. The task entrusted to these experts is to provide technical assistance to the OAU in the preparation of a submission to the donor community for the funding of an expanded Neutral Military Observer Group (NMOG) in Rwanda. These two officers arrived in Addis Ababa on 13 May. They will be assisting the OAU to determine the needs and concept of operations of an expanded NMOG. They will also evaluate the necessary logistic and administrative support requirements and prepare the relevant cost estimates.

23. Meanwhile, a decision to deploy observers at the Uganda/Rwanda border could help to promote the negotiation process in Arusha and encourage the parties to actively pursue their efforts towards peace and national reconciliation in Rwanda. It would underscore the importance which the international community attaches to the maintenance of peace and security in the region and to the peaceful settlement of the conflict within Rwanda. Such a decision would also signal the willingness of the international community to assist in the implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement currently being discussed in Arusha, under the auspices of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania and with the cooperation of the Organization of African Unity.